

REPORT OF THE
REFORM COMMITTEE
TO THE ELECTORS OF
BRISTOL

1832

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R E P O R T
OF THE
REFORM COMMITTEE,
TO THE
ELECTORS OF BRISTOL,

Read at the Public Meeting, held at the Assembly-Rooms,
Monday, November 26, 1832.

THE Committee appointed at the Public Meeting of the Electors of Bristol, held at the Assembly-Rooms, Prince's-street, the 18th of October, 1832, to carry into effect its Resolution to promote the Return of two Reformers to represent this city in the first Reformed Parliament, submit the following Report to their fellow-citizens :—

In consequence of the publication of Mr. Baillie's first address to the Electors, the Committee addressed to him the following letter :—

“ Sir, Bristol, 24th October, 1832.

“ The Reform Committee appointed at a Public Meeting of the Electors of Bristol, on Thursday last, to promote the return of yourself and Mr. Protheroe to the ensuing Parliament, have read with great regret your intention not again to offer yourself as a Candidate to represent this city in Parliament.

“ Cordially concurring in the view taken at that Meeting of your valuable services in Parliament, and the prompt attention you have always paid to the interests of your Constituents, we earnestly hope you will reconsider your determination. We do not expect you to expose yourself to the fatigues of a personal canvass. We protest against the Candidates incurring any but merely legal expenses ; and if, knowing that nothing beyond this is expected from you, you will consent to offer yourself, and appear at the hustings, to sanction the exertions of your friends, we shall be at once satisfied and gratified.

“ These being most explicitly and unequivocally our sentiments, we feel assured that you will properly appreciate our motives in earnestly soliciting an early and definitive answer as to your final intentions. The enemies of Reform are already in the field, and making very extraordinary exertions, and you will see how important it is that they should not be allowed to use such arguments, in obtaining promises of votes, as may be fairly urged while there is but one Reform Candidate in the field, and while there is any uncertainty whether there will be another.

(Signed) “ W. HARWOOD, Chairman.”

To this letter Mr. Baillie replied as follows :—

“London, 25th October, 1832.

“Sir,—I have just had the honour of receiving your letter of yesterday, and beg to assure you that I feel much gratified at the manner in which you have been pleased to communicate to me the Resolutions of the Reform Committee, upon my conduct as one of the Representatives of the city of Bristol.

“Having already announced my determination in my Public Declaration to my Constituents, I have only to repeat that it is not my intention to offer myself as a Candidate for the suffrages of my fellow-citizens at the approaching General Election.

“I beg you will convey to the members of the Reform Committee my sincere and most respectful acknowledgments for the offer of their support, and

“I have the honour to be, Sir,

“Your faithful humble Servant,

“JAS. E. BAILLIE.”

“William Harwood, Esq.,

“Chairman of the Reform Committee, Bristol.”

A Declaration, substantially the same, was made by Mr. Baillie in reply to a letter from Mr. Manchee.

In consequence of these communications, a Deputation was appointed to wait on Mr. Baillie's Committee, to confer with them thereon; when they stated that they had sent a Deputation to wait on Mr. Baillie, who had replied, that he considered that he could not, with a due regard to the honour and consistency of his public and private character, make any further declaration; but, at the same time, his Committee stated that their conviction remained unaltered, that, if elected, Mr. Baillie would take his seat.

Under these circumstances the Reform Committee felt themselves justified in publishing an Address on the 30th October, stating their assurance that Mr. Baillie, in the event of his re-election, would continue those services which had hitherto been so valuable and so satisfactory to his Constituents; and calling on their fellow-citizens at once to organize themselves into committees, and proceed with as little delay as possible to an active canvass on behalf of their approved Reforming Members, James E. Baillie, Esq. and Edward Protheroe, Jun., Esq. It appearing evident, in the course of this canvass, that the Electors were not satisfied with the position in which Mr. Baillie then stood, his Committee published an Address stating their intention, on Friday,

the 9th November, to commence a canvass on his behalf. No such canvass, however, took place, and the next day the following advertisements appeared in the Bristol papers.

**“TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY AND DISTRICT
OF BRISTOL.**

“Gentlemen, London, 8th November, 1832.

“After my Address of the 22nd of October, in which I stated that it was not my intention to solicit the honour of your suffrages at the ensuing Election, I did not suppose I should be obliged to obtrude myself further on your notice ; but, having seen various placards and canvassing tickets, in which my name has been associated with that of another Gentleman, who has declared himself a Candidate, I feel it indispensably necessary to trouble you once more.

“I beg leave to disclaim, in the strongest language that can be used, all knowledge of, or participation in, this proceeding. I have already declared that I am not a Candidate for the honour of representing the city of Bristol at the next Election, though I have always most fully appreciated that high distinction, and am now most sincerely gratified by the continued confidence and regard of my Constituents.

“I have felt great reluctance in forcing myself before you ; but I trust my respected fellow-citizens will be aware, that I could not with propriety remain subject to an imputation, so much at variance with the character it has always been my study to maintain amongst them.

“I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

“Your devoted humble Servant,

“JAMES EVAN BAILLIE.

“MR. BAILLIE’S ELECTION.

“Bristol, Friday, 9th November, 1832.

“The Committee of Mr. Baillie’s friends have, with deep regret, to announce to the Electors of Bristol that they no longer act ; and, whilst it is their duty to give their fellow-citizens the earliest knowledge of their separation, it is also a duty to themselves briefly to state the circumstances which have led to this most painful determination.

“On the receipt of Mr. Baillie’s Address, stating that it was not his intention to solicit the suffrages of the Electors at the approaching General Election, it was believed by his friends that, if returned, he would resume his seat ; and a Declaration was signed by more than 400 of his fellow-citizens that they would put him in nomination, and use their utmost exertions in his favour.

“A copy of this Declaration was forwarded to Mr. Baillie by his personal connections—a Committee was formed—that Committee arrived at the conclusion, that, if elected, Mr. Baillie would take his seat, and stated that conviction to the public. Doubts being still entertained by a portion of their fellow-citizens, a Deputation was sent to Mr. Baillie, and, on its return, the Committee felt justified in confirming their previous statement; and to this moment they have not the slightest reason to conceive that any change has taken place in those sentiments of Mr. Baillie, on a belief in the existence of which the Committee was first formed, and has since continued to act.

“They have, however, this day found themselves in a peculiar and most unexpected situation. It having been deemed by them essential for the interests of Mr. Baillie, that a canvass should be commenced, a Resolution to that effect was on Wednesday last made public, and this morning, at ten o’clock, the canvassers met.

“When met, they received an official communication, that Mr. Baillie objected to their proceeding on that canvass; and under these circumstances, feeling that they can no longer with effect pursue the course which, as a Committee, they have deemed essential to his success, it only remains for them to place his cause in the hands of the Electors. The Committee have done their utmost to leave the representation of their fellow-citizens in the hands of an upright and able man—a friend of liberty—a foe to licentiousness—vitally interested in the prosperity of their City, and powerful and willing to promote it.

“ROBERT BRIGHT, Chairman.”

These advertisements induced the Reform Committee to publish an Address, expressing their great regret at the circumstance, and stating that their opinion of Mr. Baillie’s valuable public services, and of his great attention to the interests of his Constituents during the period he has represented this city in Parliament, remained unchanged; but that they felt it would be to sacrifice the cause of Reform to remain any longer with the name of only one Reforming Candidate in the field; and they pledged themselves that, at the earliest possible moment, a Public Meeting should be called to consider of a fit and proper Candidate to be put in nomination in conjunction with Mr. Protheroe.

On Tuesday, the 13th November, the Committee, in accordance with their address of the 10th, determined to send a Deputation to London, to ascertain if Lord John Russell would allow himself to be put in nomination, and to take such other steps as they might think most likely to further

the objects of the Committee. Accordingly Messrs. Thomas Reynolds, Thomas J. Manchee, and Harman Visger, Jun. proceeded to London that night. On their arrival, the Deputation waited on Lord John Russell, who, though he considered himself highly flattered by the application, felt that he was so committed to the electors of the South Division of Devon, for which place he considered his return as secure, that he could not with propriety be a party to his nomination for Bristol.

In the course of conversations with Lord John Russell and Lord Althorpe, the names of many gentlemen were mentioned as eligible, and, among them, that of Mr. John Williams, the sitting member for Winchelsea ; and, in consequence, the Deputation had an interview with that gentleman, to which they were anticipating a satisfactory result, when they received the *Bristol Gazette* of November 15th, containing the pledge of Mr. R. Bright and Mr. Palmer to put Mr. Baillie in nomination ; together with a communication from the Committee, requesting them forthwith to see Mr. Baillie, and, if possible, obtain from him a definite answer—"Yes" or "No"—whether, if he were so nominated and spontaneously elected, he would take his seat. The Deputation immediately proceeded to Mr. Baillie's residence ; but, finding that he had that morning left town for Ryde, in the Isle of Wight, they determined to follow him ; and on Saturday morning, the 17th November, Messrs. Reynolds and Manchee had an interview with Mr. Baillie, at Ryde, in the presence of Mr. Elwyn, as his friend. On the Deputation stating to Mr. Baillie the business on which they sought an interview, he interrupted them to state, in the strongest terms, his determination to abide by his former written declaration, and that he would make no other. On the Deputation attempting to impress upon him the embarrassing situation in which the Reformers of Bristol were placed by his refusal, and their conviction that it afforded the Tories the only chance they had of returning Sir Richard Vyvyan ; Mr. Baillie again interrupted them, and emphatically declared that, let the consequences be what they might, he had taken his course, and would adhere to it. The Deputation add, that, though Mr. Baillie's language was strong and decided, there was no want of personal courtesy towards them.

Mr. Manchee returned immediately to London, where, in conjunction with Mr. Visger, he had another interview with

Mr. Williams. Under these circumstances it was evident to the Committee, that, even if Mr. Baillie could have been induced to alter his determination, his return would be altogether impossible ; and they were confirmed in this opinion, by the sentiments most unequivocally expressed by the Trades' Unions, to whose cordial and zealous co-operation, throughout the difficulties in which the Reformers of Bristol have been placed, this Committee must in great measure attribute the imposing attitude which the Reform interest is at this moment able to assume ; and, as the friends of Mr. Baillie have expressed their willingness to consult the wishes of a majority of their fellow-citizens, this Committee feel confident that they will not throw any obstacle in the way of that cause of which Mr. Baillie has been all his life a strenuous and consistent advocate.

The attention of the Committee was thenceforth directed to the selection of a suitable party, whom they could recommend to the Electors ; and, from the report made by the Deputation of the opinions entertained by Mr. Williams on all the great political questions of the day, coupled with his well-known sentiments, as expressed by his speeches and votes in Parliament during a long series of years, this Committee came to the conclusion, that he was in every respect qualified to advocate and support in Parliament the opinions of the Reformers of Bristol, and they therefore without hesitation recommend him to the support and confidence of the Electors.

The Committee cannot conclude their Report without reminding the Electors, that the enemy is still in the field ; and that being fully aware that, if again defeated, their hopes of once more obtaining the ascendancy in this city will be gone for ever, they will leave no means unemployed, no stratagem untried, which long practice in electioneering tactics can suggest, for the fulfilment of their hopes of again bringing us under their yoke, and of harassing and impeding the measures of those honest and upright Ministers, to whose patriotic exertions the people of this country are indebted for the greatest political boon that was ever conferred on any nation, and on whose continuance in office depend the maintenance of peace abroad, and the establishment of prosperity at home.

The Committee do, therefore, most earnestly impress on the Electors, of every class, the necessity of using combined

and simultaneous exertions in every parish, and every district, which, if heartily persevered in, cannot fail of success.

SAMUEL WARING, Chairman.

COMMITTEE-ROOM, 35, Broad Street,
26th November, 1832.

At a PUBLIC MEETING of the Electors of Bristol, held at the Assembly Rooms, Prince's Street, on Monday, the 26th instant, RICHARD ASH, Esq., in the Chair, the following Resolutions were unanimously passed:—

1st.—That the Electors of Bristol are truly grateful for the past services of James Evan Baillie, Esq., and they regret that the uncertainty in which they have been left, whether he would take his seat if re-elected, has irrevocably imposed upon them the necessity of inviting another Reform Candidate.

2nd.—That the explanation which has been this day made of the political principles of John Williams, Esq., is satisfactory to this Meeting, that he is a fit and eligible person to be associated with Mr. Protheroe in representing the Reformers of Bristol in the ensuing Parliament, and that he be forthwith invited to offer himself as a candidate for their suffrages.

3rd.—That this Meeting reprobates, in the strongest terms, the demoralizing scenes exhibited at the houses opened by the friends of Sir R. Vyvyan, and it pledges itself to return the Reform Members free of all expense, but such as the candidates may legitimately be required to incur. And, as the avocations of Mr. Williams will not allow him to devote the time required for a regular canvass, that he be invited to explain his opinions to this Meeting, and that his further attendance be dispensed with till the time fixed for the election be more certainly ascertained.

4th.—That this Meeting strongly reprobates the specious but futile attempts now making to deprive the present Ministry of the public confidence; and it has the firmest reliance that his Majesty's Government will continue to pursue that line of foreign and domestic policy which will conduce to the happiness and prosperity of the nation.

5th.—That the cordial thanks of this Meeting be given to the members of the Reform Committee, and that they be requested to continue their valuable services.

RICHARD ASH, Chairman.

6th.—That the cordial thanks of this Meeting be given to Richard Ash, Esq., for his able and impartial conduct in the Chair.

REFORM COMMITTEE.

The Committee have read, with great surprise and regret, an Address, purporting to be issued by a Committee of Mr. Baillie's friends, and signed by Mr. Robert Bright, announcing an intended course of proceeding, which the unanimous and enthusiastic Meeting on Monday last must clearly show can lead to no result that will be satisfactory to Mr. Baillie. They feel that they owe it to their brother-Reformers to make one or two observations on that Address.

At the Public Meeting of the 18th of October, a member of Mr. Baillie's Committee announced that the Address of that gentleman, offering himself as a Candidate, was in town, and was only delayed being published in deference to the Meeting then held. With the accuracy of that statement the Reform Committee have nothing to do; but it may be safely inferred that the "public declarations of support by the Reform Committee, the Trades, and the Citizens in general" were dependent upon it; for no sooner was the Address of Mr. Baillie, of the 22nd of October, published, declining to come forward, than the declarations of some of those bodies were modified, or suspended, or withdrawn.

It is not fair that the consistency of the City, in withdrawing its support from a Candidate who would not condescend to say "Yes" or "No" to the question, whether he would take his seat if elected, put by those who had a right to ask it, should be impeached by a Committee of gentlemen, who had dissolved themselves in something like disgust at the treatment they had received from the same gentleman.

That Committee had considered it necessary to canvass for Mr. Baillie. Did they imagine that the conduct, which so disgusted them on the morning they were about to commence, was calculated to secure Mr. Baillie his election spontaneously?

The Reform Committee are censured for sending a Deputation to Mr. Baillie, to procure an answer "Yes" or "No" to the question, whether he would take his seat if elected; and, by an extraordinary kind of logic, it is stated, that he might have said No, if he did not mean to sit, but could not say Yes, in the alternative. This is not quite intelligible. But did not Mr. Baillie's Committee send a Deputation towards the end of October, to the same gentleman, and for the same purpose?

The Electors did not withdraw their confidence so long as they were left to themselves; it was Mr. Baillie's interference with the intended canvass, and his second Address, that finally determined them to seek another Candidate.

But we are told by Mr. Baillie's Committee that "the result of that Deputation has endangered the peace of the City, and roused feelings of hostility which are at variance with calm and sound

judgment." Whether such are the feelings and purpose of the gentlemen who make this extraordinary Declaration, we know not; but the Reform Committee confidently refer to their Report to prove that they have no such intentions. They conceive that they are called upon to impress on the Electors, who have done them the honour to confide in them, and to look up to them for advice in their embarrassing situation, that they have now to discharge an important duty to their country, which requires the most serious reflection and the most peaceable demeanour; and they entreat their brother-Electors to discharge it with a due forbearance towards the opinions of others.

It is further stated, that "to support Mr. Williams is decidedly against the wishes and opinions of a large class of most respectable Electors, who have constantly supported the rights and liberties of the people." That class, if a large one, by persisting in nominating Mr. Baillie, has left the Electors no alternative, but either to have another Reformer in the field, or to endanger the rights and liberties of the people, by ensuring the return of a Tory who has always been opposed to them.

The objections to Mr. Williams, as a lawyer, come with a bad grace from gentlemen who belong to a party that formerly introduced Sir Samuel Romilly as a Candidate into this city. But his profession must give him a better acquaintance with the subtleties and intricacies of commercial questions than can be expected from a mere merchant, and ensure us a much more powerful advocate of those important local questions that will, at an early period, be brought before the legislature.

THOMAS REYNOLDS, Chairman.

Committee-Room, Broad Street,
November 27, 1832.

The following Report of Mr. Williams's Speech is copied from the Bristol Gazette. He was introduced by the Deputation, and was welcomed by the most deafening shouts of applause. He immediately spoke nearly to the following effect:—

"I am desirous to save this Meeting that most unpleasant of all subjects, the talking of oneself. I should have been guilty of the most disgusting vanity if I had presumed to enter this assembly, and propose myself as a Candidate for the representation of this great and opulent city. Far from it.—I now appear before you at the request of gentlemen whom I see around me, and feel flattered by the reception with which you have been pleased to welcome me.

I understand that the state of your election affairs is such, that you are desirous of putting into nomination some one who is an advocate for Reform. I profess to bear towards that measure the sincerest good-will; but I do not profess to throw upon it any new light.

Gentlemen, I presume that were any of you about to take into your employ a servant, or confidential agent, you would make all due inquiry into the conduct of that man, to prove that he were trust-worthy. As men of sense you would not take his own opinion of himself, but look to the character which he bore amongst his neighbours, or with those whom he had before served. Promises, gentlemen, are often but thin air—they always begin and generally end in air; but conduct is substance on which a man has a right to draw.—A man is not improperly vain who appeals to his conduct.—I will be as modest as I can in speaking of myself—but the subject, alas, I cannot avoid, in order to show upon what grounds I stand before you. I must begin too, I fear, at the wrong end. I must refer those who wish to know any thing of the humble individual who addresses you to what he did last. To the great measure of Reform I gave the most zealous and ardent support, and, what was most astonishing for a lawyer, a silent one; for I was convinced that the great object of its opponents was delay, which I was desirous not to increase by observations of my own. By this forbearance of others and myself the great measure passed—and let that pass.

Again, in the progress of that measure his Majesty's Ministers retired, when Lord Ebrington made a motion inferior to none since the Revolution: in that majority of eighty-eight my name is to be found, as it is also on other most trying occasions.

Gentlemen, ten years ago I first had the honour of a seat in Parliament for Lincoln; if you will consult the public records you will find that no one measure to further the civil and religious liberties of the people wanted my support. If I am wrong, the records of Parliament will bear testimony against me. What a man says—if he has any say in him—(a laugh) will there appear. Of the Test and Corporation Acts I had an aversion from my leading strings. In place and out of place, in season and out of season, I uniformly exposed their impolicy and injustice. Again, I know not what you may think of me, but I hesitate not to say that I

invariably condemned those Catholic disabilities which imposed civil penalties on religious profession, and I plead Guilty to having thanked the Duke of Wellington for doing that in six months which others took twenty-five years to talk about. I also felt indebted to him for introducing many wholesome retrenchments in the public expenditure.

Gentlemen, I hope that none of you were ever induced to enter into the Court of Chancery—if you have, God send you a safe deliverance—a short one it cannot be, nor without the expenditure of a considerable sum of money. There, if you gain your suit, you are certain to gain a loss. Well, I did all within my means to remedy the evils of that Court; and although I was not as successful as I could wish, yet the stratum was laid for a Commission which has done much, and will do more.

Gentlemen, on the subject of Slavery I will say that I detest it in every shape and every colour. In Parliament, if I have not been the most violent, I have been a most zealous and determined, advocate for its abolition. In the case of Smith, the Missionary, I gave all my feeble assistance to my, excellent friend, Henry Brougham, now Lord Chancellor, in exposing and reprobating the injustice and cruelty visited upon that much ill-treated man.

Gentlemen, it is exceedingly painful to hear a man thus talk of himself—but I must proceed. In the Reform Bill there are several amendments necessary—a man is not entitled to registry who has not paid his taxes. It is the first time in my life I ever heard that a man ought to run round his parish to find out the tax-gatherer. If I am fortunate enough to obtain a seat in the next Parliament, I will propose that a man shall be entitled to his franchise who pays taxes when called for.

Gentlemen, the duration of Parliaments is another subject worthy of consideration. The cause of the repeal of the Triennial Act was the violent and abominable excesses committed at elections—this, it is hoped, will be remedied under the new system, and then there cannot be this objection to a shorter duration of Parliament. When this stain to our country is removed, and elections are conducted as they ought to be, then will I give a ready and willing vote for Triennial Parliaments.

Gentlemen, there is another point on which I will speak, as a man ought to speak, without reserve. If the system of in-

timidation, practised too much by all parties, be not repressed but persevered in, and more especially if it be increased, then hear me, men of Bristol, I will vote for ballot with all my heart. I agree with a Noble Lord who said that, if the system be persevered in, this country would become more intolerable to live in than the most absolute despotism.

Again—I have, for a long time, been convinced that the Corn Laws require a most careful revision. Free Trade is an evil if it do not include the Corn Laws. If I have a seat in Parliament I will support any measure which shall produce cheap bread to the labouring poor.

Gentlemen,—there is another subject in the thoughts of every body—I mean a more equitable distribution of the property of the Church—I have no difficulty in saying that there is at present a most unequal distribution of labour and emolument in the Church, and he, who shall rationally and soberly set about correcting that unequal distribution, shall have my support. Furthermore, I consider Tithes as a most undesirable mode of collecting the revenues of the Church, and the very reverse of what it ought to be, and tending to deprive precept of the dignity of example. I am not about to state that most monstrous absurdity that the farmers would obtain their land on the same terms if tithes were abolished—but this I will say, that the present mode of collecting the Church revenue is injurious to the cultivation of the soil, and checks a spirit of enterprise and improvement.

Gentlemen,—it is not for me to say what measures of state ought to be pursued, for I am not, or ever likely to be, Chancellor of the Exchequer; but as far as our expenses can possibly be lightened, they ought to be—and all taxes removed which press upon industry and obstruct the diffusion of knowledge—and those taxes which are necessary should be laid on the shoulders best able to bear them; which is only to be done by a real Property-Tax, beginning at the top, not touching the bottom, and tapering down the middle. I am not preaching up the quackery of doing without taxes—if any man be fortunate enough to discover so wonderful a secret I shall rejoice as much as any one.

(Here there was cry from the crowd—"Corporations.")

Aye, Corporations, Gentlemen, as that good man, who appears squeezed by a large corporate body, calls out—Corporations, gentlemen, are no more like one another than two men's faces. They are, in general, too much, to

use a grazier's phrase, bred in and in—too nearly related to produce a vigorous offspring—they engender only themselves. Any law that shall have a tendency to open close Corporations, and to instil into them the wholesome spirit under which they were originally formed, by periodically giving them fresh members from the burgesses, shall have my cordial support. Connected with this is the subject of Close Vestries—if any body wished to state a thing more preposterous and absurd than another, it would be, that a self-elected body should regulate the taxation of others. An Open Vestry by all means.

Gentlemen,—I appear before you after a very short notice ; I have travelled all night, and feel somewhat fatigued, which I hope will be some excuse for my imperfect address—but you have a right to my undisguised opinions, and shall have them ; but as I am obliged to return immediately to London, I hope and trust my not being capable of calling upon the Electors, will not be ascribed to any personal disrespect.

Gentlemen, I must now leave you to pursue your own course. I have necessarily been obliged to speak much of myself. I could not avoid it—but I have disparaged no one. If you think my former conduct be the best pledge that I can give—I refer you to it. I shall have other opportunities, stranger as I am, of again addressing you, if it be your pleasure to put me in nomination. Whatever may be the result, or whoever may be chosen by you, I cannot, in this most numerous assembly, and with the reception I have met, but flatter myself that I have a well-grounded hope that at a future day I may be enabled to address you by the more endearing appellation of Constituents.

Gentlemen,—one word more. If any Elector here is to be sold I shall prove a very bad customer. I would not give the price of half an old hat for any man's vote. (Bravo.) Having all my life laboured to expose corruption, I should be the most venal and abandoned if I attempted to practise it myself. Believe me, you will get nothing by me or from me, if I am to be the Representative of corrupt slaves—but all my talents, poor as they are, and all my industry, will be dedicated to your service, if elected voluntarily and free of expense. Having to the extent of my strength explained to you my opinion on public affairs, I can only now thank you for your kind attention, and shall, without giving any other pledge, refer you to my past parliamentary conduct.

[This address was received throughout with the most rapturous applause.]

Mr. MANCHEE then proposed three cheers for "Protheroe and Williams," which was responded to in the most animated manner.

THE REFORM COMMITTEE, TO THE ELECTORS OF BRISTOL.

The Reform Committee beg to congratulate their fellow-citizens, on the temperate, yet unanimous and enthusiastic, result of the Public Meeting of Monday last. The proper and grateful testimony to the past services of Mr. Baillie, and the judicious determination not to allow that generous feeling to interfere with the solemn discharge of the duty they more imperatively owe to their country than to any individual, will stamp them throughout the nation as one of the most reflecting and intelligent classes of Electors in the kingdom.

But the present crisis demands the personal efforts of all true Reformers; they must not relax; they must contend for victory, as though each individual thought it depended on his own exertions. No time must be lost. The battle is nearer perhaps than may be anticipated. According to the latest information, the Writs will be issued on Monday next, and in less than a fortnight the contest will be decided.

The Reform Committee, more zealous for principles than for men, have devoted themselves to the most effectual methods of realizing the wishes of the great body of the Electors, as expressed in the Resolutions of two Public Meetings, fairly and impartially convened; and they shall never sufficiently regret that a few individuals, by persisting in a course that has been repudiated by the Electors, should have given an appearance of division, that must be injurious to the cause of Reform. Their conduct is the more strange and unaccountable, inasmuch as, while the whole of the Reforming interest were willing and anxious to co-operate with them in promoting the return of Mr. Baillie, they not only refused their co-operation, either individually or collectively, but actually dissolved themselves in apparent disgust at his extraordinary interference. But no sooner had the Electors themselves, also decided on another course, in consequence of the same proceeding, and had been confirmed in the propriety of that course, by the unanimous decision of a Public Meeting, than those gentlemen again rally, talk of using the most strenuous exertions to secure Mr. Baillie's return, and adopt a tone of something like intimidation and dictation to the Electors.

The Reform Committee feel that such conduct is but too much calculated to justify the general suspicion that they are enemies to the cause of Reform; but they have the most unbounded confidence that the Electors will exercise their own sound judgment as to what is the most efficient mode of securing the return of Two Reformers; and, having decided, that they will steadily persevere in it.

The Reform Committee call upon the Electors to co-operate with their respective Parochial Committees, and promote the most extended adoption of the Declaration now in course of signature, pledging the Reformers to support the return of PROTHEROE and WILLIAMS, and thus enable our Patriotic Ministers to give full effect to the Reform Act. By order of the Committee,

Nov. 30, 1832.

W. B. CROSS, Solicitor.

REFORM COMMITTEE.

Friday, November 30, 1832.

The Committee for conducting Mr. Baillie's Election are pursuing a very extraordinary course, which cannot be too deeply regretted;—it is injurious to the cause of Reform, and must be repugnant to the honourable mind of the worthy Member whose interests they profess to serve.

They have aspersed the conduct of the Reform Committee; but the refutation is easy and complete.

The declaration of Mr. Mills proves to be unpalatable to Mr. Baillie's friends; they, therefore, disown him. This is not very generous to a man who has served them so faithfully. But how were the Reform Committee to know that Mr. Mills was not a member of their committee? And why was not the statement contradicted before?

The Reform Committee repeat, "it may be safely inferred that the public declarations of support by the Reform Committee, the Trades, and the Citizens in general, were dependent upon that statement;" for, "no sooner was the address of Mr. Baillie, of the 22nd of October, declining to come forward, published," than the language of the Trades began to be modified, of which the Reform Committee will quote a few instances.

On the 23rd of October, the Sawyers said "If our worthy Member, James E. Baillie, should decline coming forward, we are fully resolved to support no other in his room but a staunch Reformer."

On the *same day*, the Brush-Makers, after pledging themselves to return Mr. Protheroe, "respectfully invite James Evan Baillie, Esq., to allow himself to be put in nomination."

On the 24th of October, the Toy-Makers said, "Should Mr. Baillie decline, we trust that no Candidate will offer himself whose principles are not those of a decided Reformer."

On the 26th of October, the Sugar-Bakers declared, "and if Mr. Baillie retires, we shall give our votes to some other Liberal Candidate."

The Reform Committee, also, refer to the addresses of the Tin-Plate workers, the Cordwainers, the Clock-Makers, &c., all making similar or stronger declarations.

It was in consequence of the Reform Committee observing this change in the sentiments of the Electors, that they sent a Deputation to the Committee of Mr. Baillie's friends, on or about the 26th of October, to ascertain what were *their* views of Mr. Baillie's intentions; and it was the strong conviction expressed by them that Mr. Baillie would take his seat if elected, and an earnest desire to keep the attention of the Electors fixed on Mr. Baillie, that induced the Reform Committee to issue their address of the 30th of October. The position of Mr. Baillie, in reference to the Electors, was not the same when the Reform Committee yielded to the general desire to procure another Reform Candidate. Mr. Baillie had published an address, disclaiming, in the strongest terms, all participation in the proceedings of his friends, and declaring, emphatically, that he was not a Candidate. He had also forbidden the Committee of his friends to canvass for him, and they had, in consequence, dissolved themselves. That the Reform Committee shewed every reluctance to relinquish Mr. Baillie, is demonstrated by their instructing their Deputation, after Mr. Bright and Mr. Palmer had pledged themselves to put him in nomination, to wait on Mr. Baillie, to get the simple answer, "Yes" or "No," to the question whether he would take his seat if elected; and the Deputation, having followed him to Ryde, Mr. Baillie emphatically declared that, whatever might be the consequence, he would abide by his former written declaration. Can any thing so monstrous, then, be supposed of Mr. Baillie, that he has authorized any body else to declare that he would take his seat if elected. The Reform Committee feel, therefore, that they are called upon to ask Mr. Bright, and the Committee of which he is the organ, on WHAT AUTHORITY "they most unreservedly declare to the Electors of Bristol that, if elected, Mr. Baillie will take his seat."

An objection to Mr. Williams's profession comes with a bad grace under the signature of Mr. Robert Bright, whose brother, Mr. Henry Bright, a lawyer, represented this city in two Parliaments, and whose other brother, Mr. B. H. Bright, a Candidate for the borough of Oldham, is not only a lawyer, but a stranger there.

By order of the Committee, W. B. CROSS, Solicitor.

